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Unique Triage System opens at K.R. Hospital

Used when medical care process is overloaded and when there are more people who need care

Mysuru, June 22 (MTY, KS & BCT)- It is the time of COVID-19 and because of the volume of patient admissions to an Emergency Department, treatment routines cannot be precisely planned and executed. As such, the available resources at a Hospital may become overwhelmed or patients may crowd a particular area resulting in risks for patient safety.

In view of this, Hospitals come up with Triage System to better manage crowds. One such system — Triage Centre — was inaugurated at the State-run K.R. Hospital last Friday. It provides better patient care where they will be guided to the respective departments. This will avoid huge crowds at the Out Patient Department (OPD).

What is Triage System?

Triage is the prioritisation of patient care (or victims during a disease breakout) based on illness/injury, severity, prognosis and resource availability. The purpose of Triage is to identify patients needing immediate resuscitation, to assign patients to a pre-designated patient care area, thereby prioritising their care and to initiate diagnostic / therapeutic measures as appropriate. In other words, when used in medicine and healthcare, the term Triage refers to the sorting of injured or sick people according to their need for emergency medical attention. It is a method of determining priority for who gets care first. Triage is used when the medical-care system is overloaded, meaning there are more people who need care than there are available resources to care for them.

(See TRIAGE on page 5)

Public entry to Police Stations restricted

Mysuru, June 22 (RK&KS)- More and more Policemen are getting infected by Coronavirus and sadly they are contracting the disease while in the line of duty.

While Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has sent all field personnel aged 55 years or above on paid leave and directed officers to liaise with the public in specially erected tents outside Police Stations, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta has restricted entry of public at all Police Stations including Traffic Stations and other Police units.

He has issued instructions to Inspectors of all Police Stations not to allow anyone inside the Police Station unless the issue is serious. Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Dr. Chandragupta said that there are no special kiosks set up at Police Stations. "Personnel at the reception counter of Police Stations will take care of those coming inside either to lodge complaints or submit petitions. Public will not be allowed to meet any officials except for serious issues. This is done keeping in mind the safety of public and Police personnel," he said.

(See POLICE on page 2)

City-based Skanray enables BEL to manufacture PM-CARES ventilators

30,000 ventilators to be available by August in a corruption-free initiative

Mysuru, June 22 (BCT)- In his recent address to Chief Ministers of all States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 30,000 ventilators funded by PM-CARES will arrive by August 2020. In May, Rs. 2,000 crore was allotted from the Fund for procuring 50,000 ventilators. This will double the number of ventilators in the country and help save lives of COVID-19 patients, the PM had said.

Behind the Prime Minister's announcement is the efforts and initiatives taken by Mysuru-based Skanray Technologies that has started delivering ventilators built under its licence by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). The project is being funded by the PM-CARES Fund. The ventilators will be delivered to the Government and 30,000 of them will be delivered by August.

Skanray Technologies is a global exporter of ventilators. Its Founder and Managing Director Vishwaprasad Alva told 'Star of Mysore' this morning that of the 30,000 ventilators, 1,200 will be available for Karnataka.

(See SKANRAY on page 5)

Govt. authorises 30 Hospitals in Mysuru to treat COVID-19 patients

Mysuru, June 22- Karnataka has roped in Private Hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients. So far only Government Hospitals were being utilised to treat patients. Now, Private Hospitals will also be utilised to treat patients. The Government has released a list of officially recognised Private Hospitals to treat COVID patients and as per the list, 30 Hospitals in Mysuru have been authorised to offer treatment.

Some of the Private Hospitals are empanelled with Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) and they are authorised to treat COVID patients.

As per the Government order, Hospitals have to follow the Government's treatment protocol and the Hospitals will be paid as per the appropriate package rate for COVID-19 management. Further, additional packages will also be applicable for co-morbidity, the order states.

Here is a list of Hospitals in Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar:

MYSURU		
Narayana Hrudayalaya	CAH/1, 3rd Phase, Devanur 2nd Stage, R.S. Naidu Nagar	0821-7122222
Apollo BGS Hospital	Adichunchanagiri Road, Kuvempunagar	0821-2568888
Bharath Hospital Institute Of Oncology	438, Outer Ring Road, Hebbal	0821-4240602
Cauvery Hospital	Teresian College Circle Siddarthanagar	0821-4244000
Jagadguru Sri Shivaratreeshwara Hospital	Mahatma Gandhi Road Agrahara Circle	0821-2335555
Brindavan Hospital	No 64, 3rd Cross Jayalakshmipuram	0821-4000782
Sigma Hospital	P8D Saraswathipuram Thonachikoppal Road	0821-426661
Shubhodaya Hospital	26 Dr. Rajkumar Road Sri Siddivinayaka Block Teachers Layout	0821-2570066
Annapoorna Eye Hospital	199 Sai Padam New Kantharaj Urs Road Sharadadevinagar	98454-58658
Amritakripa Charitable Hospital	Opposite 22nd Cross Roopanagar	93431-10884
Pralaksha Hospital	275 1 Veda Arcade Hunsur main road Hootagalli	0821-2401555
Vivekananda Memorial Hospital	Hanchipura Road Saraguru	0822-8265412
Krishna Hospital	18th Cross R P Road Nanjangud	08221-223080
Vidyaranya Hospital Pvt Ltd.,	2876 4Th Cross Opposite GTR Narayana Shastry Road Chamundipuram	0821-2330555
Supriya Hospital	728, New Street Hinkal	95388-83911
Nagaraje Gowda Memorial Hospital	No 45 46, Near Lions School HUDCO Bannimantap	0821-4280777
Bibi Ayesha Milli Hospital	242 Old Mysore Bangalore Road Subhashnagar	0821-2497131
Nanjamma Javaregowda Hospital	Aloka Palace Road Yelwal Bypass Road	0821-2972011
Suyog Hospital	P2 E F Block Dakshineshwara Road Ramakrishnanagar	0821-2533600
DRM Multi Speciality Hospital	2909 Temple Road Vontikoppal V Mohalla	0821-2411344
Clear Medi Radiant Hospital	2 C 1 A 1 Block Vijayanagar Third Stage	0821-2523333
Sindhu Eye Hospital	6 Block 1 Madhuvana Layout Srirampura 2nd Stage	0821-2362458
Bhanavi Hospital	Anikethana Road Kuvempunagar	0821-2545454
Shree Mahadeshwara Nursing Home	Buddha Marga Mysore Bannur Main Road Siddarthanagar	0821-2474747
St. Joseph's Hospital	176 Bangalore Mysore Road Bannimantap	0821-4003900
Nandhana Super Speciality Eyecare Pvt. Ltd.,	446 New No 38 J L B Road Next to Big Bazar	0821-4006400
Nirmala Hospital	2 Giridarshini Layout Alanahalli	0821-2476600
Sompura Basappa Hospital	Bannur Main Road Alanahalli Post	94480-70571
Vasan Eye Care Hospital	966 2 JLB Road Lakshmipuram	0821-3989000
CEG HOSPITAL	17 1 KRS Main Road V.V. Mohalla	0821-4266969
MANDYA		
Sanjo Hospital	Srinivasapura M C Road	96207-20322
Mandya ENT Care Centre And Hospital	Varun Building G.H. Road 100 ft Junction Ashok Nagar	0823-2221569
Archana Hospital	K R Road Ashok Nagar	0823-2224092
Trinetra Eye Hospital	Trinetra Eye Hospital 1212 1 3Rd Cross Ashoka Nagar	0823-2231234
Sri Lakshmi Venkatesh Nursing Home	B.M. Road Nagamangala	0823-4285025
G Madegowda Super	No. 1889 , BET Complex Maddur Malavalli	0823-2298208
Speciality Hospital	Main Road Bharathnagar K M Doddi Maddur	
Sri Adichunchanagiri Hospital And Research Centre	B.G. Nagar Nagamangala	0823-4287055
Belaku Eye Hospital	1186, 2nd Cross Ashoknagar	0823-2400502
Mandya Multispeciality Hospital	Ashoknagar 3rd Cross	0823-2403111
CHAMARAJANAGAR		
Holy Cross Hospital	Kamagere, Kollegal Taluk	70226-65370
JSS Hospital	B.R. ROAD	0822-6222209
RK Hospital	Double Road	0822-6222122
Basavarajendra Hospital	785 Nanjangud Main Road Mariyala	0822-6297485

NOTE: Hospital addresses and phone numbers have been released to the media by the State Government. Readers may make suitable enquiries on their authenticity.

Cipla and Hetero launch generic versions of COVID drug

Cipla does not disclose pricing of drug, Hetero to supply its version of Remdesivir at Rs. 5,000- Rs. 6,000 per vial

New Delhi, June 22 (Agencies)- Drugmakers Cipla and Hetero yesterday said they had launched generic versions of Remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients.

Both the companies received regulatory approval of Remdesivir from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), on June 20, for restricted emergency use as part of the accelerated approval process considering the urgent and unmet medical need.

Cipla launched its version of Remdesivir 100 mg vial (injectable) under brand name CIPREMI, while Hetero launched the product under the brand name COVIFOR. Cipla has not disclosed the pricing of the drug, Hetero said it would supply its version of Remdesivir at Rs. 5,000- Rs. 6,000 per vial.

Hetero has said it wants to ensure the five-day treatment or six vials should cost not more than Rs. 30,000 per patient. "As part of the risk management plan, Cipla will provide training on the use of the drug, informed patient consent documents, conduct post-marketing surveillance as well as conduct a Phase IV clinical trial on Indian patients," Cipla said in a statement.

The company said it would be commercialising Remdesivir through its own facilities and partnered sites. "The drug will be supplied through Government and open market channels, to ensure equitable distribution," the company added.

Sources say Cipla has partnered with BDR Pharma to manufacture the drug. Hetero said it had enough stocks to supply to the present needs of the country.

In May, Gilead Sciences entered into voluntary non-exclusive license with Cipla, Hetero, Jubilant Life Sciences, Mylan and Pakistani company to manufacture and market Remdesivir in 127 countries including India. Gilead later entered a similar agreement with Zydus Cadila and Dr. Reddy's.

The Indian Health Ministry protocol says Gilead's antiviral drug may be considered in patients with moderate disease or those on oxygen. The protocol advises giving the drug against people with liver disease, kidney failure, pregnant or lactating women, and children under 12 years. Remdesivir usage is for five days, 200 mg IV (intravenous) on day 1 followed by 100 mg IV daily for five days.

Public entry to Police Stations restricted

(Continued from page 1)

As soon as a person arrives at the Police Station, personnel at the reception counter would first provide them sanitiser, thermal scan and if the person is not wearing a mask, he/she is told to wear one or cover face with a handkerchief. If the person does not even have a handkerchief, he will be sent back, the Commissioner added.

The personnel at the reception counter would then enquire the person the reason for his/her visit and if the person has come to lodge a complaint or submit a petition, the personnel at the reception counter would receive the same and issue acknowledgement. Complainants are allowed inside the Police Station and meet officials only if the issue is serious. All precautions will be taken, he explained.

Apart from Police Stations, public entry has been restricted at City Police Commissioner's Office, Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs) Offices, Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP) Offices, City Crime Branch (CCB), City Crime Record Bureau (CCRB), City Special Branch (CSB), Police Control Room, Traffic Automation and Enforcement Centre, Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Office, Inspector General (IG) Office, Lokayukta, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and District Crime Investigation Bureau (DCIB) among other Police units.

VOICE OF THE READER

Remove mud from Valmiki Road

Sir,

There is a lot of mud accumulation on Valmiki Road near Maharani's College. Owing to rains, some parts of the road are slushy and is posing a danger to two-wheeler riders.

Hence, on behalf of the motorists and pedestrians, I request the MCC authorities concerned to remove the mud from the side of the road so that the riders will have a smooth drive and morning walkers can walk freely.

— Sanjay Kini
on e-mail

Mysuru
21.6.2020

Complete ban

on entry to Chamundi Hill during Ashada Month?

Decision to be taken after assessing the crowd at Hill Temple today and tomorrow: DC

Mysuru, June 22 (MTY&SD)- In view of the ongoing COVID-19 regulatory measures in city, this year devotees will not be allowed to take part in special puja celebrations, which is going to be held on the occasion of Ashada Fridays (June 26, July 3, 10 and 17) and Chamundeshwari Vardhanti Mahotsava (July 13) atop Chamundi Hill temple.

Speaking at a press conference held on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said, "Further decision will be taken about not allowing devotees to Chamundi Hill on all other days in the month of Ashada Masa after assessing the number of visitors present on June 22 (Monday), which is the first day of Ashada month according to Hindu calendar as well as on Tuesday. Every year, thousands of devotees visit the temple to have darshan during Ashada month as special puja will be offered to the deity during this auspicious month, in particular on Tuesdays and Fridays. In the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, the District Administration had earlier announced that devotees will not be allowed to have darshan of the deity at the Hill Temple on all Ashada Fridays this year."

"Meanwhile, Chamundi Hill residents have urged the administration to not allow visitors to the Hill for the whole month. We will assess the situation and the number of visitors present on Monday and Tuesday. If there is a large crowd, we will take further decision regarding allowing devotees on all other days during this auspicious month, as there are chances of infection spread," he said.

"District Administration has also imposed restrictions in all other temples in city on Ashada Fridays and Vardhanti Mahotsava, as devotes will assemble in large numbers on these auspicious days. In case there is uncontrollable crowd, we will close down any temple in city including those coming under Muzrai Department," he added.

Steps leading to the Hill temple to be closed

During Ashada Fridays and Vardhanti Mahotsava, devotees have a practice of applying *arishina-kunkuma* (turmeric-vermilion) to every step of Chamundi Hill as part of their vow. If the residents of the Hill request in writing not to allow devotees here too, we will have to ban entry of devotees from the steps too," said DC Abhiram Sankar.

Stating that it has been a practice for many organisations and associations to place a portrait of the Goddess and perform puja on the road sides, the DC said such practice too is prohibited this time and there is ban on 'anna santarpane' (mass feeding) and prasadam distribution also.

He warned of action against those violating any of these rules.

International Day of Yoga

Sri Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji demonstrates 'Jala Yoga' at Srirangapatna

District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda, Tahsildar Roopa, Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma too perform Yoga

Sri Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji of Chandravana Ashram demonstrating 'Jala Yoga' in River Cauvery at Srirangapatna yesterday. Picture right shows District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda and others performing Yoga at the Ashram premises.

Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma of Shashwathi Dharmika Kriya Samiti and Tahsildar M.V. Roopa (in pink) performing yoga in the premises of Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple premises in Srirangapatna yesterday.

Srirangapatna, June 22 (Nagaiah)- As part of International Day of Yoga celebrations, Sri Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji of Chandravana Ashram near here demonstrated 'Jala Yoga' in Srirangapatna yesterday.

He performed various asanas as in River Cauvery near the Ashram for nearly 30 minutes. Over 10 asanas including Virabhadrasana, Shiluve Asana, Hanumanasana, Padmasana, Matsyasana and Kurmasana were displayed with ease as he floated on water.

Speaking on the occasion, he said "Practicing yoga will reduce physical and mental stress. We must make time for yoga and pranayama every day. This will increase immunity and concentration." Associations and organisations should create awareness about yoga benefits, he suggested.

Earlier, at the programme held at the Ashrama premises was attended by Mandya District Minister K.C. Narayanagowda, his wife Devika, daughter and son-in-law. The Minister too performed yoga for about 20 minutes. Sri Chandrashekara Shivacharya Swamiji of Hiremutt in Belagavi and former Minister Rudrappa Lamani too joined the yoga session.

Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple premises

Yoga Day celebrations was also organised in the premises of Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple premises in Srirangapatna yesterday under the aegis of Taluk Administration, K. Shettihalli Vivekananda Yoga Kishora Kendra and Abhinava Bharat organisation. Tahsildar M.V. Roopa and Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma of Shashwathi Dharmika Kriya Samiti in Srirangapatna performed yoga on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma said that doing yoga everyday will help us lead a healthy life. Stating that PM Narendra Modi has created awareness about the benefits of yoga to the whole world, he said that everyone should practice yoga for personal as well as society's health.

Gandhian Dr. B. Sujay Kumar, Abhinav Bharat's K.S. Lakshmish, Vidyabharati Educational Institution's Ranganna, former Municipal Council Member Nalina, Parisara Ramesh and others were present.

Yoga trainers K. Shettihalli Appaji, Narasimha and Shreyas taught yoga asanas.

Also, taluk's Karigatta Neelachala Sneha Balaga Members performed yoga at Srinivasa Temple premises. Dr. Raghavendra led the one-hour yoga session which was attended by over 50 members from various villages.

AIDYO's Statewide demonstration on June 25

Seeking wages for Guest Lecturers

Mysuru, June 22 (RKB&DM)- Claiming that the Government has not paid wages for Guest Lecturers across the State for the past several months, the All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO) will stage a Statewide demonstration on June 25 over the issue.

Announcing this at a press meet at Patrakartara Bhavan here this morning, AIDYO Secretary T.R. Sunil said that over 14,500 Guest Lecturers are serving at more than 400 Government First Grade Colleges across the State and they have not been paid wages since the past few months. Despite several pleas to the Government to clear wage dues, the Government is silent on the issue, he said and as such the AIDYO, which has taken up the cause of affected Guest Lecturers, is staging a demonstration throughout the State on June 25, to press the Government for action.

Claiming that several Guest Lecturers have committed suicide during COVID-19 lockdown reportedly due to financial constraints, Sunil urged the Government to announce a relief package for Guest Lecturers who are facing a lot of hardship.

AIDYO President H.S. Harish and others were present.

Retired employees' office shifted

Mysuru, June 22- The office of Karnataka State Government Retired Employees Association, which was located at Saraswathipuram 17th Main, has now been shifted to #2 and 3, Ward No. 58, 3/1 Main Road, E and F Block, EWS, Ramakrishnanagar, near Amma Complex, on June 19.

Henceforth, Association Members may visit the new location for their works. Members can submit their grievances at the office between 11 am and 1 pm.

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Re-visiting Shashi Tharoor's advice on India-China border dispute

I am no politician, yet in a democracy every citizen with a voting right is a politician. After all, he has chosen his Government. This is the simple reason I ventured to contemplate on what was happening in Ladakh at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between our forces and that of China. Thank God, the Parliament is not in Session...

William Shakespeare famously spoke about the man's helplessness before, let me say, fate. In the play 'Hamlet,' a character bemoans, "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions."

Our country, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and we the people seem to be facing the same kind of situation Shakespeare spoke of in the play 'Hamlet.' In the midst of COVID-19 refusing to go away, rather surging in numbers, the consequent economic meltdown, fear of an uncertain future, we are faced with the border clashes with China thus compounding our difficulties.

I wonder if China does not feel "sorrow" despite having similar difficulties, rather worse with Hong Kong on the boil. But China being a Communist country, with one-party rule, a totalitarian country with no opposition and no citizen allowed to ask questions like in our democratic country, can easily ignore the world opinion, loss of human lives and economic meltdown. Therefore, China, without being questioned by its people unlike in our country, can engage itself in a **geo-political game** with India and hope to win.

India too can hope to win in this geo-political game, in my humble opinion, only if, as a democracy, every citizen and every political leader cutting across party-lines, resolves, like the Englishman during World War II, who asserted "Right or Wrong, My Country" and stands firmly behind the ruling Government without striking a discordant note or making demoralising statements. England as a democracy followed this patriotic ideal. Democracy won. Dictator lost. Then why not India win?

Narendra Modi

Dr. Shashi Tharoor

But Shashi Tharoor has a word of advice, or call it counselling, to China which, I guess, is good for China in the long run. Let me quote:

"But India somewhat bigger than China's other regional neighbours, and is made of sterner stuff. Rather than adopting a confrontational stand, China's leaders should work with us. If they don't, and instead move, to follow through on their threats, they may well discover that India, too, has cards to play."

Be that as it may, after our PM called an all-party meeting to discuss the Ladakh situation and martyrdom of our soldiers, I was left wondering what was the outcome of the meeting and how did it resonate with the main Opposition Congress and the Left parties. It was then that I remembered our know-all Congress MP Dr. Shashi Tharoor, who wrote the book 'The Paradoxical Prime Minister -- Narendra Modi and his India.' It was published in 2018, one year before the 2019 Parliamentary elections that was won by BJP.

At the end of Chapter 42 of the 500-page book, Tharoor hazards a prediction about Modi's defeat in the 2019 Parliamentary elections with a sense of audacity. He couches his prediction in his own garbled style. Let me use his own words: "Will Prime Minister Modi have the sagacity to make our relationship with the US what it should be, as his Prime Ministerial term lurches towards its inglorious conclusion?"

Well, we know Modi's Prime Ministerial terms marched towards a triumphal victory with greater majority than in his 2014 victory driving the Opposition to their inglorious political limbo. Hope, Shashi Tharoor, may not hazard another such ominous prediction about Modi in the next 2024 Parliamentary elections.

Now let me turn to the present and what Shashi Tharoor has written in Chapter 43 titled "Kowtowing to China?"

He regrets the fact that though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had met on numerous occasions, for all these meetings there did not seem to have been much headway made on the most serious issue confronting the two nations — border conflicts, the trade imbalance and China's growing aggression to fulfill its regional and global aspirations, among others. He mentions about Doklam standoff for months in 2018, Dalai Lama's April 2017 visit to Arunachal Pradesh and its border town of Tawang and how these developments annoyed China.

He seems to ask a pertinent question: If China could settle its boundary with Myanmar along the McMahon Line, why not with India?

He says India took a conciliatory approach with China and it was a setback and China has scant regard for India's sensitivities on various issues.

But Shashi Tharoor has a word of advice, or call it counselling, to China which, I guess, is good for China in the long run. Let me quote:

"But India somewhat bigger than China's other regional neighbours, and is made of sterner stuff. Rather than adopting a confrontational stand, China's leaders should work with us. If they don't, and instead move, to follow through on their threats, they may well discover that India, too, has cards to play."

My humble, layman's feeling is that we should convey this message, nay warning, to China post-haste through diplomatic channels.

And Shashi Tharoor's another counselling too should make sense in the present situation to bring 'Peace for Our Time' (to borrow a phrase from British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain but not with the kind of result Chamberlain got!)

"China can veer away from confrontation towards at least co-existence if not extensive co-operation."

To my mind Shashi Tharoor seems to have had a mystical kind of premonition when he suggested in 2018 a way to bring China to its senses. This is what he wrote:

"But to pull this off successfully requires... political firmness, military preparedness to discourage any PLA (China's People's Liberation Army) adventurism, hard-headed economic negotiations and skilful diplomacy."

No more Kowtowing to China. Only a polite Namaskara, yes Mr. Shashi Tharoor. But who in the past ignored India's borders with China? I received a WhatsApp message where the then Defence Minister A.K. Anthony was telling the Parliament in 2013 that India did not develop any infrastructure or military capability on the border but China did. India did not build roads and airfields. May be, now that India is doing all that under Modi Government, China is annoyed.

Jai Hind !

e-mail
kbg@starofmysore.com

Mysore Astronomical Society formed: Enrolment open

Mysuru, June 22- Mysore Astronomical Society (MAS) has been started very recently to spread awareness about Astronomy, Astrophysics, Cosmology and Observational Astronomy. The main objective of this Society is to promote astronomical aspects, sky watching and various other activities pertaining to Astronomy.

Basically a non-profit Society, MAS will help people to understand astronomical phenomena, occurrences, sky events and many more. Academicians, students, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, Astronomy connoisseurs and enthusiasts are involved in MAS.

This Society has planned to organise Webinar, Invited Talks, Workshops, Sky Watching sessions, Telescope Making Activity, Visit to Observatories, Planetarium and so on. People who are interested to join can contact MAS Conveners Dr. S. A. Mohan Krishna on Mob: 96323-76757 and Shwetha Krishna on Mob: 90084-92433, according to a press release.

Nominated as Food Safety Advisor

Dr. Renu Agrawal

Mysuru, June 22- Karamveer Chakra Dr. Renu Agrawal, former Chief Scientist and Rural Programme Coordinator, CFTRI, Mysuru, has been nominated as an Advisor to the Centre for Quality of Food Safety (CQFS), New Delhi.

The Centre has a vision for the improvement and promotion of food processing in the country as per global practices. It protects the interest of the consumers supporting the farmers, industries and trade.

Dr. Renu Agrawal is a recipient of many National and International awards.

Presently, she is serving in a number of National Committees of DST (Department of Science and Technology), Government of India. In Karnataka, she is involved with the smart village development, SDG -2 programmes, mentoring the interns of SDG-2 and training the officials at ATI by Government of Karnataka.

She is on the selection board of I-woman Global awards. She has penned many scientific books for the welfare and good health of people.

Amendments to APMC, Karnataka Land Reforms Acts

Farmers to gherao District In-Charge Ministers from tomorrow

Mysuru, June 22 (RKB&DM)- Strongly condemning the amendments to APMC Act and Karnataka Land Reforms Act and the moves to privatise the Power sector, farmers under the banner of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Virodhi Kaide Horata Samithi (Karnataka State Action Committee against Anti-farmer Amendments to Acts), will gherao District In-Charge Ministers across the State starting from tomorrow.

Announcing this at a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House here this morning, Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association President Kurubur Shanthakumar, who is also the Chief Convener of the Samithi, said that as a first step of the Statewide protest against the Government's decision to amend the APMC and Karnataka Land Reforms Acts and the move to stop free power supply to Irrigation Pumpsets of farmers by privatising the Power sector, the farmers will gherao all District Ministers of the State at their respective headquarters from tomorrow (June23).

As a next step, the farmers will register their protest against the Government's anti-farmer policies by staging massive demonstrations in front of the houses or offices of all Legislators of the State on June 24. Also demonstrations will be staged in front of all the Deputy Commissioners Offices in the State on June 29 and subsequently, the farmers will lay siege to the residence of the Chief Minister at Bengaluru on a later date, he said.

Accusing the Government of turning to false propaganda in respect of amendments to the Acts, Shanthakumar maintained that the amendments to the two important Acts and the Power sector privatisation moves were totally against the farming community. He urged the Government to revoke its actions in the better interests of the farmers, who are considered as the backbone of the country.

Samithi office-bearers Attahalli Devaraj, Honnur Prakash, Dr. Guruprasad, Bhagyaraj, Manjesh Gowda, Sudhir Kumar, Chandrasekhar and others were present at the press meet.

Unique Triage System opens

(Continued from page 1)

Functioning of Triage Centre

The Centre was inaugurated by Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj. The Triage Centre is located between the OPD Block and the Office of the Medical Superintendent. Under the system, patients will be segregated based on their need for immediate medical treatment in categories such as 'immediate category', 'urgent category', 'delayed category' and 'expectant category.'

The first stage on the arrival of the patient at the Triage Centre is assessment by the doctor and nurse. The medical staff will evaluate the patient's condition and will determine their priority for admission and the patient would be guided to the Department instead of the patient wandering around inside the Hospital looking for the Department.

Facilities for patients

The newly set-up Triage System is also a boon to screen COVID-19 suspects, ILI (Influenza-like Illness) and SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Illness) patients at K.R. Hospital. The Triage area has facilities such as multiple registration and billing counters, hand sanitiser and thermal screening areas, waiting area with wheelchairs, stretchers and trolleys.

There are social workers to help and guide patients regarding lab facilities, radiology facilities and inpatient wards. Doctors from General Medicine and Community Medicine Department will check the patients. This apart, there is Nursing Station for primary care of patients and 1,050 beds with state-of-the-art laboratory and

radiology services.

There will be 24X7 emergency service, casualty, blood bank facility and the hospital is empanelled for Ayushman Bharat, Arogya Raksha scheme. There are dedicated wards for ILI and SARI patients with an ultra-modern Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) in Microbiology Department to test COVID-19 samples. The OPD registration counter is open from 9 am to 4 pm and there is a separate entry and exit point to avoid rush and crowd.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj said that the earlier Jayadeva Hospital building at K.R. Hospital has now been converted to collect swab samples from patients suffering from fever and other COVID-19 symptoms.

K.R. Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Nanjundaswamy, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr. Rajesh, HoD of Surgery Dr. Dinesh, Nursing Superintendent Alkananda, Security Supervisor M. Mahadevu, Assistant Security Supervisor Mahadevaswamy, Jagadish and others were present.

Demand to conserve Buddhist remains at Saket in Ayodhya

Mysuru, June 22 (RKB&DM)- As part of its Nationwide 'Save Saket, Save Buddhist Heritage' campaign, over fifty activists of Buddhist International Network, led by former Mayor Purushotham staged a demonstration in front of Vishwa Maithri Buddha Vihar near Ashoka Circle (Ballal Circle) on Dr. Ambedkar Road here this morning, urging the Government to conserve Buddhist remains found at Saket Nagar in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, where Ram Mandir is set to come up.

Maintaining that the Buddhist remains and traces found in Saket Nagar points to the fact that it was the place where Buddhism thrived thousands of years ago, the protestors wanted the Government to conduct more excavations in the area.

DSS leaders Tumbala Ramanna, Siddaraju, Subbaiah and others took part in the campaign.

City-based Skanray

(Continued from page 1)

Alva said, "30,000 units of Skanray's CV200 advanced ICU ventilators are being manufactured at Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the Government of India of which a few thousand have already been delivered and the entire 30,000 is targeted to be delivered by August."

Government-to-Government deal

"For the first time, this is a Government-to-Government arrangement where State-owned BEL is supplying ventilators to the Centre. Skanray Technologies is transferring the design and product manufacturing technology. It is also supporting BEL to indigenise some critical components that have been imported for them to be used locally along with our own components. We are also helping with some software features and design upgrades along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientists," he added.

"While the BEL is manufacturing CV200 ventilators under licence from Skanray Technologies using our technological expertise and training, their quality, monitoring and assessment are our responsibility. Already 10,000 ventilators are ready," Vishwaprasad Alva revealed.

Ventilators to bear PM-CARES logo

The ventilators are competitively priced considering its configuration, features and performance. All the BEL's ventilators bear the PM-CARES logo to ensure traceability and accountability, as it is being procured under this Fund. This has been tweeted by Chairman and Managing Director M.V. Gowtama and according to him, the CV200 is a high-end ventilator.

Corruption-free initiative

A notable aspect of the manufacturing and supply of CV200 ventilators is that there is no involvement of middlemen or brokers and as such it is free of corruption. "The project has been launched under the concept of Government-to-Government and there is absolutely no involvement of private agencies and middlemen like any other Government deal. We are always critical of how corruption dominates Govt. dealings. Here, the Modi Government has to be complimented for a corruption-free initiative," Alva said.

Also, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), instead of asking private firms to manufacture and supply ventilators, has asked the State-owned BEL to manufacture the much-needed ventilators and the PMO is monitoring every step of the process," he added.

Skanray is India's only ICU ventilator exporter of modern medical equipment and has its installations in about 80 countries around the world and with over 50 products, it is an Original Equipment Manufacturer to large global med-tech companies.

COVID precautions

Vijayanagar Aadhaar Kendra shut

Mysuru, June 22 (BCT)- The Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) that was till now functioning at #532, CCK Complex, New Kalidasa Road, Opposite MUDA Complex, Vijayanagar First Stage, taking all precautions to prevent COVID-19, has been closed until further notice.

The Kendra has been closed as a COVID-19 case has been detected in the house opposite to the building.

As a precaution, the Kendra has been closed and the area has been declared as a containment zone.

Mysuru City Corporation staff sprayed sanitisers and disinfectants around the Kendra and even in the houses that are located within the containment zone. In a communication to *Star of Mysore*, the Aadhaar Seva Kendra Centre Manager Col. (Retd.) N.G. Krishna Prasad said that people with appointments are requested to reschedule their appointments.

The Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Saraswathipuram (above Blue Dart Couriers, Kamakshi Hospital Road) will, however, be open, he added.

The show may not go on for many city theatres

Landmark Shanthala Theatre announces closure

Mysuru, June 22 (SBD,RK& BCT)- The COVID pandemic has dealt a bitter blow to the already fragile entertainment industry. While theatre owners, employees, actors and backscreen staff are desperate to be re-united with their audiences, re-opening cinema halls is not high on the Government's agenda.

Closed since March according to the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines, cinemas will only be allowed to re-open in the last phase of the Unlock 1. This has directly hit the survival of theatres — both single screen and multiplexes. In Mysuru, the landmark and most-loved Shanthala Theatre has announced that it will not re-open even after the Government permits opening of cinema halls.

Though only Shanthala has made a public announcement that it will stop movie-screening, many other theatre owners too are inclined to diversify their business as they are suffering huge losses and the Government is not yet talking about re-opening cinemas.

Shanthala Theatre owner N.M. Padaki** (right) **with Manager Devaraj in front of the theatre where they were felicitated this morning by some cinema-goers.

In dire straits

Shanthala Theatre's closure has come as a rude shock to other theatre owners, cinema-goers and distributors. In fact, since March, cinemas in Mysuru have laid off their part-time employees and have even asked full-time employees to go on leave without pay. While those who are still working, took steep pay cuts to keep their jobs.

Iconic theatres that have catered to the cinema craze of Mysureans since many decades and other single-screen theatres are bearing the brunt of the pandemic and the lockdown as there is no revenue since over three months. Day-to-day maintenance too is becoming an arduous task for them.

There are 13 single-screen theatres in Mysuru city and three multiplexes housed in shopping malls. In the district, there are 36 theatres. Earlier in the city limits there were 21 theatres and now only 13 are functional with the rest selling off properties or diversifying their business models.

Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation Vice-President M.R. Rajaram told 'Star of Mysore' that cinema theatre is the only business that has to obtain operation permission and fitness certificate from Fire, PWD, Health, Electricity Departments and a final No Objection Certificate from the Deputy Commissioner.

High taxes in Mysuru

"Taxes are rather heavy in Mysuru when compared to Bengaluru. Every year, theatre owners pay Rs. 30,000 as trade licence fee to the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh goes as property tax depending on the size of the building and extent. Also there are other taxes and fees like the licence fee of departments. Each theatre in Mysuru pays anywhere between Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 1.5 crore as taxes to the Government. Also, we need to look after theatre maintenance and staff salary. How are we supposed to function," asked Rajaram.

If the theatres are allowed to open following social distance norms, they could have managed. But in this situation where the cinemas are not allowed to function, it is difficult to survive. "Theatres and Choultries in Mysuru actually pay commercial property tax more than what their counterparts in Bengaluru and rest of Karnataka pay. This issue is in the Court now as our many appeals to the MCC have fallen on deaf ears," he added.

Industry in doldrums

The movie theatre experience — complete with surround sound, visual effects, snacks and refreshments — has thrived over years but now things are changed. The cinema industry is in doldrums and theatres and multiplexes are worst affected as they are not permitted to open, said C.R. Hanumanth, Proprietor of DRC Cinemas.

"In a situation where we are not allowed to operate, cleaning and maintenance work including the complicated screen maintenance has to go on and staff salary has to be paid. How are we supposed to survive? The Government must allow us to operate with guidelines or rules. Even if we are allowed to screen cinemas, there is a fear that people may not come to watch movies. Going by the footfall at malls, cinemas' footfall is going to be even lower. But somewhere we have to start as a confidence-building measure," he added.

N.M. Padaki, who owns Shanthala Theatre, told *SOM* that the cinema hall was started in 1974 after taking land on lease from an Orphanage Trust. "When the initial 30-year lease expired, we appealed to the Trust to renew the lease. Now the Trust has not permitted us to again renew the lease. So we have no other option," he revealed.

'Dynamic Devaraj'

The last cinema that was exhibited in Shanthala was 'Shivaji Suratkal.' Apart from being a landmark in the locality, most of the super hit movies used to be released here and there was no chance of tickets being sold in black. Also, decorum was maintained in the theatre and there was no opportunity for crowds to shout, whistle or jeer, thanks to its Manager Devaraj, who is called 'Dynamic Devaraj.'

Devaraj used to vacate such people from the cinema hall and there was no chance for mischief-mongers to misbehave with women. Many cinemas in Shanthala has seen 100-day shows and Kamal Hassan's 'Swathi Muthyam' has seen 365-day show, a record. Apart for Padaki, T.P. Subbarao is a partner in the theatre.

Reacting on the theatre closure, Manager Devaraj said that he is deeply pained by the development. "I joined Shanthala Theatre in 1978 and have an emotional bonding with the institution and also cinema lovers. Even during lockdown, all employees were paid full salary. But now, things have reached to closure state," he added.

Promote lecturers as Principals of Polytechnic Colleges: MLC

Mysuru, June 22 (YDS&DM)- JD(S) MLC Marithibbegowda has urged the Government to promote lecturers serving in Government Polytechnics as Principals, which posts are lying vacant in many places of the State.

In a letter written to Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, who is also the Higher Education Minister, Marithibbegowda, who represents South Teachers Constituency in the Legislative Council, said that a number of Principal, Joint Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director posts are lying vacant in the Technical Education Department for years.

Pointing out that many Polytechnic Colleges of the State have only In-Charge Principals, he said that this sort of an arrangement would not only hurt academic standards but also restricts the growth of Colleges. Besides, it is a matter of concern that 19 Polytechnics have been denied permission by the AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) for admission of students for the year 2020-21, he said and urged the Deputy CM to take necessary measures in this regard. Continuing, he said that while 19 Colleges have been refrained from admitting students, some others are facing a cut in admissions due to lack of infrastructure. Asserting that this sort of ban and cut in admissions could hamper technical education in the State, he said that lack of infrastructure in Polytechnics would also deprive poor rural students, SC/ST communities and other weaker sections of the society from getting technical education. As such, the Government must take immediate measures for filling up vacant Principal posts by promoting lecturers and to fill up other vacant posts in the Department as per AICTE rules and regulations.

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